

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending. Claims 1-8, 10-15, 17, 18, and 20-30 currently stand rejected. Claims 9, 16, and 19 have been objected to. Claims 1, 6, 7, 10, 12, 13, 15, 19, 21, 23, and 24 have been amended herein. Claims 2-4, 9, and 16 have been canceled. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and requests allowance of claims 1, 5-8, 10-15, and 17-30.

Objections

Claim 9 has been objected to for depending upon rejected claim 1. Claims 16 and 19 have been objected to for depending upon rejected claim 15. Independent claim 1 has been amended herein to include at least the limitations of dependent claim 9, and claim 9 has been canceled. Independent claim 15 has been amended herein to include at least the limitations of dependent claim 16, and claim 16 has been canceled. Dependent claim 19 has been amended herein to incorporate independent claim 15, and placed into independent form. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests the objection be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection

Claims 1-8, 10-15, 17, 18, and 20-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Applicant's admitted prior art (AAP). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1 has been amended herein to include at least the limitations found in dependent claim 9. Independent claim 10 has been amended herein in a similar manner as claim 1. Independent claim 15 has been amended herein to include at least the limitations found in dependent claim 16. Independent claim 21 has been amended herein in a similar manner as claims 1 and 10.

Claims 2-8 depend from independent claim 1, claims 11-14 depend from independent claim 10, claims 17, 18, and 20 depend from independent claim 15, and claims 22-30 depend from independent claim 21, thus incorporating the limitations of the associated independent claims. Claims 2-4 have been canceled, and the rejection as it pertains to those claims is rendered moot. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 5-8, 11-14, 17, 18, 20, and 22-30 are allowable for at least the reasons indicated above in support of claims 1, 10, 15, and 21, and such indication is respectfully requested.

Thus, in light of the discussion above, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection of claims 1, 5-8, 10-15, 17, 18, and 20-30.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above remarks, the Applicant submits that the claims in their present form are allowable. Additional reasons in support of patentability exist, but such reasons are omitted in the interests of clarity and brevity. The Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the claims at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

The Applicant believes no fees are due with respect to this filing. However, should the Office determine fees are necessary, the Office is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 210765, accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,

/David J. Bovitz/

SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

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